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Coordination, programme and other questions: calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

Letter dated 10 July 2013 from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the Economic and Social Council

In response to the invitation of the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1988/103, the Committee on Conferences met on 2 July 2013 to review the Council's provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2014 and 2015 (E/2013/L.6) and welcomed the opportunity to provide, as appropriate, its recommendations thereon to the Council.

In introducing the provisional calendar, the Secretary of the Committee on Conferences drew the attention of the Committee to General Assembly resolution 66/288, by which the Assembly decided to establish a high-level political forum, replacing the Commission on Sustainable Development, and an intergovernmental negotiation process under the Assembly to define the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum, with the aim of convening the first high-level forum at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly. In view of the decision of the Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development has been replaced on the provisional calendar of the Economic and Social Council by the high-level political forum, with the dates and modalities of its work to be determined.

The Committee was also informed of a structural change regarding the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The General Assembly, by its resolution 67/251, changed the designation of the Governing Council of UNEP to the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme. In the same resolution, the Assembly also took note of Governing Council decision 27/2 of 22 February 2013. In that decision the Governing Council decided to discontinue holding the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, replacing it, de facto, with a high-level segment. This change has been reflected in the provisional calendar of conferences.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/237, the Committee expressed its keen interest in the outcome of the deliberations of the Economic and Social

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Council at its substantive session of 2013 on the need for a biennial calendar of meetings in the economic, social and related fields.

A number of Committee members requested clarification from the Secretariat on details contained in the provisional calendar, including membership, dates and titles of meetings. These clarifications will be reflected in the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2014 and 2015.

While noting that the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs could be substantially impacted by the outcome of the ongoing review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Council, the Committee decided to recommend to the Council the adoption of the provisional calendar for 2014 and 2015.

(*Signed*) Chamithri **Rambukwella**
Chair of the Committee on Conferences